

Huge strike of outsourced porters, domestics and cleaners in east London >>Pages 10&11

Meet the health workers defying a multinational



Charlie Kimber says a radical shift provides huge opportunities >>Pages 14&15

Now the left can win much more



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WE ALL NEED A PAY RISE

WAGE



WAR ON

TORIES



UNIONS MUST CALL STRIKES

HAMBURG

Tens of thousands join angry protests against the G20

THERE WAS a show of defiance against the G20 world rulers' summit in Hamburg, Germany, last Saturday.

Protesters came from across the world to rage against inequality, racism, war, climate chaos—and capitalism. Paramilitary-like cops patrolled the protest.

>>Page 8

MARXISM



Debating how to fight for socialism

AROUND 2,500 people took part in Marxism Festival 2017 in central London last week.

Jeremy Corbyn's stunning general election result, the Grenfell Tower fire, the Tories' crisis and the danger of the right all shaped it

Activists debated where next for the left.

>>Page 7

EDUCATION

Durham teaching assistants reject rotten pay deal

TEACHING assistants have rejected the latest offer from Labour-run Durham County Council.

The deal would have seen 22 percent of TAs worse off.

TA Lisa told Socialist Worker, "We've shown that we will stand firm."

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THE THINGS THEY SAY

'There is a sense that if we screw this up, a Marxist government steps into the breach'

A senior Tory MP quoted in the Financial Times newspaper last week

'That is way above my pay grade'

Professor Anthony Forster University of Essex's vice chancellor asked for his views on higher education funding. His salary is almost £240,000

'Party leaders want her out as leader—though not yet'

Conservative Home website's Paul Goodman

'Selfish'

Former prime minister—and millionaire—David Cameron on lifting the public sector pay cap

'There is no obvious frontrunner'

The Financial Times on the Tories' alternatives to May

'The winner would have no direct mandate and might inherit a party in a state of nervous disintegration'

The Financial Times says the Tory crisis is likely to continue



SAS murders in Afghanistan are covered up at least twice

MEMBERS OF Britain's Special Air Service (SAS) covered up evidence that they killed unarmed Afghan civilians in cold blood. They also falsified mission reports in a scandal that the government has tried to keep secret.

The allegations have emerged in a classified Royal Military Police (RMP) investigation, Operation Northmoor.

Afghan civilians were murdered rather than captured during night raids.

In one 2011 case under investigation, special forces soldiers are alleged to have handcuffed and hooded some of the victims before later shooting them dead.

Top secret SAS mission reports had been doctored to make it look as if Afghan special forces, rather than the British soldiers, had carried



A Russian Makarov pistol planted by the SAS on victims' bodies. Suspicions were aroused because the same pistol serial number appeared in multiple mission reports

British 5.56mm bullets found in victims' bodies contradict SAS claims the Afghan Army—who use 7.62mm bullets—fired

out the shootings.

This meant the killings were not investigated at the time.

Operation Northmoor is said to have acquired drone and other video footage—nicknamed “kill TV”—that shows British soldiers opening fire.

An examination of bullets taken from some of the victims' bodies revealed they

were of a type used by the SAS (above). Photographs, taken by the SAS of shooting scenes show the victims holding a Makarov pistol—a weapon favoured by the Taliban leadership.

It was repeatedly planted to give the false impression that the person they had shot was an armed Taliban commander.

Operation Northmoor, set

up in 2014, was investigating dozens of alleged unlawful killings between 2010 and 2013 by special forces and had become one of the largest military police investigations.

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has ordered the inquiry to end its investigations by the end of the summer.

Sir Michael Fallon, the defence secretary, slashed the inquiry's workload from an initial investigation into 52 deaths to one case of unlawful killing.

That one case is an investigation into the shooting of four family members during a night raid on their homes in southern Helmand province in February 2011.

It is the only case of the 52 alleged killings which is currently subject to a civil claim and the details are expected to become public.

RUTH DAVIDSON has accused opponents of whipping up the “hostile and vitriolic tirades” that greeted her appointment as honorary colonel of her former British Army regiment. In the whiny 35 messages posted on Twitter she expressed outrage that the army gig was seen as in any way politically driven. Or just weird.



Ruth Davidson

COPS' BID to halt boozing teens led to a mini riot. Police launched Operation Exodus in Newquay, Cornwall. That night a “dry” under-18s event for the campaign ended with hundreds of young people holding a “running battle” outside. The cops said there were no reports “of any offences being committed”.

NHS staff stopped from joining an NHS protest

HOSPITAL staff were ordered not to go outside to join a campaign to save their own A&E—in case they spread superbugs such as MRSA.

Protesters campaigning to save the unit at an Essex hospital also wanted to present medics with a cake to mark the 69th birthday of the NHS.

A hospital worker said, “We were told we couldn't go out in our uniform. We couldn't go out and support the cause.”

The hospital claims threats of disciplinary action against

staff were because of its infection control policy on wearing uniforms outside.

THE FIGHT to stop savage school funding cuts angered the Sun newspaper. An editorial called for schools to be “stopped from sending out thinly-disguised campaign leaflets for Labour”.

This follows a number of head teachers sending letters to parents alerting them to the impact that Tory cuts would have in their schools.



Health warning?

No such thing as free Tory lunch with May

THERESA May has hired a BBC executive as her chief spin doctor at No 10.

Robbie Gibb is the second Beeb editor in six years to bag the director of communications job. He is the brother of schools minister Nick Gibb.

David Cameron poached Sir Craig Oliver to replace former News of the World editor Andy Coulson after the phone-hacking scandal at the newspaper.

Gibb, the executive editor of

the Andrew Marr Show and head of BBC Westminster, paid tribute in a tweet to the “impartiality” of the corporation.

THE TORIES banked £160,000 by renting out the prime minister at a posh party fundraiser.

One wealthy Tory supporter, whose identity has not been revealed, paid this sum for the privilege of dining with Theresa May. An audience with Boris Johnson was flogged for just £15,000.



Robbie Gibb

Get that animal off that horse

A POLICE officer allegedly called in sick three times to visit racecourses and see his horses compete.

PC Jonathan Adams is accused of gross misconduct over the visits to Royal Ascot and Nottingham Racecourse.

Gloucestershire police force claims that in 2015 and 2016 Adams took sick leave, but went to Nottingham to watch Little Lady Kate which he part-owned. Also in 2016 he allegedly saw a second horse, Quiet Reflection, race at Ascot. It won the Commonwealth Cup. A full hearing into PC Adams' case due is later this month.



9%

cut in wages for public sector workers since 2000

£11,000

rise in pay for MPs in the same period with inflation-proof rises and a 10 percent hike in 2015

Lord Adonis slams himself

THE Labour peer who brought in tuition fees for Tony Blair has called for them to be scrapped.

Lord Adonis said the charges were now a “Frankenstein's monster” saddling graduates with loans they would be paying off into their fifties.

He declared, “Fees have become so politically diseased, they should be abolished entirely.”

Lord Adonis admitted he was responsible for ex-PM Tony Blair's education reforms in 2004.

But he said rocketing bills were mainly the result of university chiefs' “opportunism and greed”.

Latest figures show that three in four students paying the highest fee of £9,250 a year will never clear their debt.

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'Manslaughter' starting point for Grenfell probe

by ALISTAIR FARROW

A SENIOR Met police officer has said the starting point of the criminal investigation into the Grenfell Tower fire would be that "around 80" deaths resulted from manslaughter.

Grim details were released of "deeply distressing" 999 calls from trapped residents, including one lasting 55 minutes.

Police now say 255 people survived the fire, based on a figure of 350 people living there. Many locals believe this to underestimate the true number affected by the inferno.

The Tories made it less likely that a true figure will ever be known. They have left the threat of deportation hanging over any undocumented migrants who come forward with any information.

They offered an amnesty of just one year, presenting people with a cruel choice—keep quiet or come forward and get deported. There should be nothing less than an indefinite amnesty.

The Tories need to be held to account for the deaths in Grenfell Tower. A protest has been called outside Kensington and Chelsea council on 19 July to keep the pressure up.

Storm

"Lots of local people are backing the demo," Joe Delaney from the Grenfell Action Group told Socialist Worker. "It's also a few days after Bastille Day we can storm the council—with our opinions, of course."

The pressure on Tories in the council and Westminster must continue if justice is going to be won.

At a residents' meeting last Thursday, public inquiry head Sir Martin Moore-Bick was slammed for previously saying residents would be "disappointed" with the scope of the inquiry. Residents demanded



TORIES NEED to be held to account for Grenfell

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

the inquiry be politically more far-reaching.

"He accused us of 'misremembering' what he said," Joe said. "It's outrageous, I quoted back what he said to us. It's a matter of public record!"

Fire safety expert Trevor told Socialist Worker, "It can't be allowed to be a cover up." The strength of the justice campaign can make a key difference in stopping that happen.

"There will probably be three inquiries," said Trevor. "There'll also be one by the fire investigators to find out how the fire started."

"Fire engineers from London Fire Brigade will test the cladding and other materials and look at the structure of the building and how that allowed the fire to spread."

Responsible

"The London Fire Brigade enforcement team will be looking for whoever's ultimately responsible."

"That will be whoever the chief executive was of the organisation that managed the property at the time of the fire."

The chief executive of the Kensington and Chelsea Tenant Management Organisation (KCTMO) at the time of the fire was Robert Black.

He has resigned his position which saw him take a share of a £760,000 annual pay pot for "key management figures", according to the latest financial report.

The people in the council and KCTMO who signed off on the refurbishment are responsible for the Grenfell Tower fire.

And so are the Tories who created the conditions for the fire to happen.

Trevor's name has been changed to protect his identity

What's your story?
Email with your ideas
reports@socialistworker.co.uk

Tower block residents take action

by SHEILA MCGREGOR

AROUND 150 residents from three tower blocks on the Ranwell West estate in Tower Hamlets, east London, met last Tuesday to discuss safety after the Grenfell Tower fire.

They insisted on access to the fire safety assessment in progress since Grenfell.

The housing director for the Clarion group, which now runs the estate, pledged to implement any of the recommendations from the inquiry into the Grenfell fire.

Pellings was not able to say anything about the fire safety status of the new cladding being put on the roofs of the blocks. It is the contractor responsible for the current refurbishment works.

Eileen Short from Defend Council Housing said, "Housing has become about making profits, not providing safe homes for working class people."

Residents are determined to get organised and take back control.

Over 30 people left details for a contact group and residents agreed to meet again to hold the landlord to account.

In Southwark, south London, Defend Council Housing tenants and residents have been complaining to the council about fire safety issues for years. Last week they lost patience and called in the fire service to inspect their flats.

They are set to take their case to the council this Wednesday.

Tenants everywhere need to insist on fire reviews, updates and maintenance.

Thanks to Tanya Murat

Are fire cuts still undermining safety?

by RAYMIE KIERNAN

FIRE SERVICE minister Nick Hurd told the annual fire safety conference last week that "actually we are maybe looking at a system failure, built up over many years".

He said the problem of unsafe cladding is "not unique to social housing or residential buildings".

The government has asked other owners, landlords and managers of private sector residential blocks to "consider" their own buildings.

They should be ordered to do new fire safety audits.

Hurd said, "In London,



Fire service minister Nick Hurd

over 2,500 fire safety audits were carried out in 2015-16 in purpose-built flats 4 storeys or more, compared to over 1,300 in 2009-10."

Yet for Tony Phillips, the Unison union branch secretary at the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority, Tory cuts may well be undermining the quality.

He told Socialist Worker, "Since 2008 the number of support staff in the London Fire Brigade, including fire safety workers, has been reduced from 1300 to 800."

Tony added, "Fire Safety Inspecting Officers have been asked to increase the numbers of fire safety audits they carry out with no additional resources."

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JUSTICE
FOR
GRENFELL**

No cover-up. Demand a people's public inquiry.

Wednesday 19 July, 6-8pm

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ON THE WEB

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- 1 **'Football Lads Alliance'—the threat of a new racist movement on the streets**
- 2 **The Labour right's Brexit bungle helps the Tories**
- 3 **Why does the right hate sex?**
- 4 **Huge demo in London says Tories must go now**
- 5 **Acid attacks are result of Islamophobia and racism**



Tory crisis creates an unmissable chance to end pay cap

by TOMÁŠ TENGYEL-EVANS

ANGER AT the public sector pay cap has opened up rifts at the top of the Tory party.

Prime minister Theresa May and chancellor Philip Hammond had to fend off calls even from senior ministers to lift the 1 percent pay cap.

May resorted to claiming that scrapping it would bankrupt Britain, after foreign secretary Boris Johnson said he “strongly believed” that the pay cap could be lifted.

This week the Tories confirmed they would keep the cap for teachers.

This comes on top of weeks of chaos, which began with a rumoured review of the policy followed by rapid back-tracking.

The likes of Johnson are the same Tory ministers who have imposed and defended the pay cap. But their manoeuvring shows up the scale of the Tories’ crisis.

The unions must use this to organise action to break the pay cap.

Karen Reissmann, a health worker on the Unison union’s national executive, spoke to Socialist Worker in a personal capacity.

“The Tories are floundering. People can see it and are asking why aren’t we doing something now,” she said.

Work

“The pay cap really strikes a chord with people. At work people who don’t always come on demonstrations are talking about marching on the Tory conference in Manchester in October.”

The Unison, Unite and GMB unions have said they will put in for a 5 percent pay claim in local government.

The UCU union voted last week to hold a national ballot of its members in further education. The ballot, expected to take place in the autumn, is for a 3 percent pay claim plus inflation.

Sean Vernell, UCU Austerity protest

ON OTHER PAGES...

Can the unions lead a fightback on pay? Read more in this issue

● Fed up and fighting back—strike at Barts hospitals (**pages 10&11**)

● Now the left can win—analysis by Charlie Kimber (**pages 14&15**)

● How can we fight under new strike laws? (**page 16**)

● British Airways workers call two more weeks of action (**page 19**)

● Durham teaching assistants reject new offer (**page 20**)

further education committee vice chair, told Socialist Worker, “The UCU is now the first national union to throw its hat in the ring to have a national ballot and try to beat the new thresholds in the Trade Union Act.

“It will be difficult to do—but it is possible to do it.”

He added, “Everybody knows now that the money’s there after the Tories gave £1 billion to the Democratic Unionist Party.”

But more unions need to match their rhetoric with action.

Unison has said that breaking the pay cap is a priority and is promising both an industrial and a political campaign. It is likely to organise rallies mainly in marginal seats.

The surge in support for Jeremy Corbyn has encouraged many working class people to think it’s possible to win against the Tories and bosses.

Karen said, “If all the unions together rallied around the pay cap and fighting for £10 an hour with Jeremy Corbyn we could fill football stadiums.

“It would motivate people to fight the pay cap, just as the rallies during the election motivated people to go out canvassing.

“It would put pressure on the Tories—and they could collapse.”

Durham Miners’ Gala



WORKERS AND activists marched in Durham on Saturday

PICTURES: NEIL TERRY

Cheers for optimism and fighting talk as Corbyn rallies supporters

by NICK CLARK in Durham

THOUSANDS OF people cheered Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn on Saturday as he encouraged the crowds at the Durham Miners’ Gala to kick the Tories out.

Corbyn’s message to the Tories was, “Feel free to resign at any time and we’ll have another general election.” His speech summed up the triumphant and determined mood at the Gala, the biggest trade union and labour movement event in Britain.

Some 200,000 people attended—one of the biggest turnouts in the Gala’s history. Many were new Labour Party members.

There were big cheers every time a speaker celebrated the fact that Labour, and British politics, had shifted left. Corbyn called on Labour supporters and trade unionists to keep campaigning.

“Parliament alone will not change society,” he said. “It’s what we do in our daily lives and in our campaigns that’s important.”

He finished by telling the crowd,



Corbyn addresses the Miners’ Gala

“The last fight let us face.”

Other speakers echoed the idea that Labour could soon be in office.

Shadow education secretary Angela Rayner told the crowd, “Next time I speak to you, I don’t want to do it as the shadow education secretary, but as the education secretary.”

And Unite union general secretary Len McCluskey said that, “There has been a real sense that

fight against the cuts can succeed.”

Some people were optimistic that Labour could soon force out the Tories—as long as it doesn’t bow to pressure to move right.

Jacob, a young Labour member and Unite rep at Barclays bank, told Socialist Worker, “Jeremy Corbyn just needs to keep doing what he’s doing.”

Others wanted more action. Chris, another Corbyn supporter, said, “We need more direct action.” “Listening to the speeches, they were great. But we’ve been ready to smash neoliberalism for a long time. We just need for everybody to get energised.”

And Phil, who came from South Yorkshire with his GMB union branch said, “We’ve got to look at industrial action—a general strike or whatever you want to call it.” There was anger over public sector pay. Mental health worker Bri said, “I’ve had my wages cut and my hours taken off me.

“The Tories say there’s no money for the teachers or public services. But they’ve got a billion pounds to keep themselves in a job.”

MPs lash out at idea of being held accountable

LABOUR MPS have launched a fresh attack on members of their own party.

Left wing Labour Party members have been attacked and vilified for calling for more democracy, or for MPs to support their leader.

Right wing MPs accused party members of intimidating Liverpool Wavertree MP Luciana Berger after an activist said she had to “get on board”.

Failed leadership candidate Yvette Cooper claimed the “targeting” of Berger was “unacceptable” and “utterly shameful”.

She compared left wing Labour Party members to racists, fascists and the far right.

Apologise

Blacklisted construction worker Roy Benthams was hounded for saying Berger should apologise for not supporting Corbyn in the past.

Roy said Berger “will have to be answerable to us” after Corbyn supporters were elected to Liverpool Wavertree Labour Party’s executive committee.

Roy, the newly-elected trade union liaison officer, said the branch election “sends out a clear message about the effect Jeremy has had and shows other



Labour MPs Luciana Berger (right) and Yvette Cooper



Elected—Roy Benthams

branches in Liverpool and Merseyside what people enthused by his politics can achieve.”

He added that Berger “will now have to sit round the table with us the next time she wants to vote for bombing in Syria or to pass a no confidence motion in the leader of the party”.

It came after left wing MPs Chris Williamson and Ian Lavery suggested that sitting Labour MPs should face “reselection”.

This would mean activists get to vote on whether an MP stays on as Labour’s electoral candidate.



Tom Watson

The report tried to suggest that many people think Labour has moved away from its “traditional working class supporters”.

But of the people it surveyed, 56 percent said Labour stood for the working class.

But Cooper said, “Frankly Labour Party members should be united in supporting Luciana not targeting her or trying to intimidate her”.

She went on to attack Labour members for “dehumanising” the Tories. “It’s what the Trump cheerleaders did to Hillary Clinton,” she said.

Disgracefully, Cooper even used the murder of Labour MP Jo Cox by fascist Thomas Mair to attack the left.

“In the Labour Party we should know—because we’ve already lost someone to hatred,” she said.

Right wing Labour MPs are still determined to drive out the left and drag Labour back to the right.

But they can’t currently attack Corbyn, so they have rounded on their own members.

Socialist Worker WHAT WE THINK

AS MAY BEGS FOR HELP—DON’T LET HER HANG ON

FIRST THERESA May threw a bung to the reactionary Democratic Unionist Party. Then she called on the slippery Lib Dems to vote with her government. Now May is reaching out to Labour.

May called on Tuesday for the opposition to “contribute and not just criticise”.

This cry for help signalled that debate on the Great Repeal Bill was about to begin.

This vast bundle of Brexit legislation covers just about every topic Tory MPs have ever fallen out over.

But it was also meant to be her relaunch. And it failed miserably.

May dusted off a trick she got a bit of mileage out of last year—posing as a champion of workers.

The only substance to this is the Taylor review which says little and changes less (see page 6).

Meanwhile workers across Britain are feeling the pain of her policies.

The weekend saw rumours fly around about a cabinet walkout.

The night before her speech, May’s majority shrank even further after she suspended an MP from the Tory group in

parliament for racist language.

Other Tory MPs had been present when Anne Marie Morris made her now notorious offensive comments. They didn’t object at the time. But in public even their party had little choice.

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn rightly refused to help keep May’s government of austerity and racism in office.

He offered “to furnish you with a copy of our manifesto or better still, an early election”.

Tory MPs were furious with May. One accused May of a “lovefest” with the enemy. Others asked why she wanted ideas “from a man who tried to remove her from office” or spluttered about

“The night before her speech, May’s majority shrank even further

“useless socialism”.

For some backbench MPs, cross-party working is an appealing way to boost their careers—and try to turn back the vote to Leave the European Union (EU).

Labour right winger Chuka Umunna and former Tory minister Anna Soubry last week launched a new alliance. The Corbyn-bashing Guardian newspaper egged them on, with an editorial urging backbenchers to “work together” against a “hard Brexit”.

But Labour MPs should not be shoring up neoliberal EU institutions such as the single market, let alone throwing a lifeline to a drowning May.

Pro-Brexit and pro-EU Tories seem to hate loser May even more than they hate each other. But they hate the rest of us more still.

And with nothing to gain from a new election, they will choke down as much bile as it takes to hang on.

The only thing that could change that would be if workers started to fight back with much bigger strikes and protests.

Our challenge is to seize the day and make that happen.

NO VICTORY IN IRAQ

EVEN FROM their own viewpoint, warmongers’ celebrations of “victory” over Isis in Iraq sound hollow.

Iraqi forces, backed by Britain and the US, declared that they had forced the brutal and reactionary Isis out of the city of Mosul last Sunday.

It was said to effectively mean the end of Isis in Iraq.

But the suffering of ordinary people in Iraq is far from over. More than 800,000 people are refugees in their own country

after fleeing fighting and airstrikes.

Human rights group Amnesty International claimed on Tuesday that coalition forces used heavy explosive weapons in densely populated areas.

It said Britain’s claim that hundreds of its airstrikes on Mosul had resulted in no civilian casualties “is at best implausible”.

The blame lies at the feet of the US and Britain.

Their disastrous invasion in 2003 destroyed Iraqi society. They encouraged sectarianism to divide

opposition to occupation.

They left Iraq in a mess and made it possible for Isis to grow.

And there’s no end in sight to the horror. US generals are already warning about the growth of an “Isis 2.0”.

Regional powers are now competing over who comes out on top in the wake of the carnage.

The latest round of bloodshed may be coming to an end in Iraq.

But the West’s intervention is paving the way for even bigger, bloodier wars to come.

International Socialism ★ 155

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ANALYSIS

ALISTAIR FARROW



‘Worker status’ is not good enough

THE TAYLOR Review into working practices was published on Tuesday. It was brought about by challenges by workers in bogus self-employment, but there's a danger that the result will serve the bosses.

The review looked into the status of workers by examining the three legal categories of employment—“employee”, “worker” and “self-employed”.

People working in the so-called “gig” economy, such as the construction industry, for courier firms such as Deliveroo and for taxi firms such as Uber, are often classified as self-employed.

This means their bosses don't have to pay national insurance contributions or sick pay.

A series of employment tribunal rulings have found that workers in bogus self-employment should be classified as workers. That fight forced the Taylor Review to take place.

The review suggested that the Tories introduce a “dependent contractor” status to replace “worker status”. That means people with worker status will get more legal protections in the workplace, such as sick pay and holiday pay, but that's still not enough.

The review states, “If it looks and feels like employment, it should have the status and protection of employment.” But the report gives little recommendation about enforcing this view.

Workers with “employee” status are the most secure and are entitled to the statutory minimum sick pay. But this is only £89.35 a week and is only available for 28 days. That's not enough to survive on and means people are forced to work while sick.

If the Taylor Review was a serious examination of working practices then it should have addressed all these issues.

“The message to employers is there is nothing to fear from this,” said inquiry head Matthew Taylor.

The review has given cover to employers who claim that “flexible working” is what workers want.

Security

Workers' voices have been excluded from the debate.

One of the four key people involved in the Taylor Review is Greg Marsh, an investor in Deliveroo.

The company's CEO Will Shu said, “It's only right that [riders] are given the security they deserve whilst keeping the flexibility that they value.”

But his workers have struck against just that. “Flexibility” can mean workers receive effectively less than the minimum wage at slow times.

A central part of the business model of firms such as Uber is enticing drivers in with big money promises, saturating the market, and then rapidly dropping pay.

Some people may need a job without fixed hours. But that doesn't mean they shouldn't have protection when they're sick. Nor does it mean that they should be punished for having children and denied maternity or paternity pay.

Chair of conciliation service Acas and former TUC leader Sir Brendan Barber prostrated himself before the employers.

“Clear and accessible guidance that allows people to make an informed choice before entering into these types of working arrangements would greatly help the situation,” he said.

“The best way to achieve better work is not national regulation but responsible corporate governance,” reads the review.

So workers are on their own in the fight for better rights. They have been so far and have won victories despite that.

One medical courier firm, The Doctors Laboratory, has conceded that its workers aren't self-employed and have changed them to worker status. Deliveroo announced last week that it would start paying sick pay to workers.

Workers, no matter their status, should be guaranteed a minimum hourly wage. But the fight should not stop at the bare minimum to survive. Workers need to fight for better pay and conditions, a real living wage, reasonable workloads and to be treated with respect.

The political and legal campaign is getting results but there is a lot more to win. We need to keep up the pressure.

Workers shouldn't rely on the review's recommendations being taken up by the Tories, inadequate as they are. To win real security at work and decent pay and conditions will take organisation and struggle.



HUNDREDS OF people rallied against the recent racist acid attacks

PICTURE: DAVE GILCHRIST

Rally for acid victims builds unity against Islamophobia

by TOMÁŠ TENGEY-EVANS

AROUND 300 people rallied against racist attacks against Muslims outside Stratford station in east London last Wednesday.

They were demanding justice for two Muslim victims of a horrific acid attack last month.

A white man threw acid at Resham Khan (pictured right) and Jameel Mukhtar through a car window in the Beckton area of Newham.

The police are treating it as a “hate crime” and have now arrested 24 year old John Tomlin, who remains in custody as a chief suspect.

Obaid Khan, a councillor in the area, told Socialist Worker, “We're here to stand shoulder to shoulder with Resham, Jameel and their families.”

Frightened

He added, “People in the Muslim community are very frightened. I've seen messages on social media of women saying they are going to take a bucket of water with them when they go out.

“People should not have to feel like that.”

There have been reports of other acid attacks in east London—and many Muslims fear being targeted in racist attacks. But there was a large turnout on the rally in defiance.

Jama, a Muslim woman from east London, told Socialist Worker, “This attack happened because of racism and Islamophobia.

“The levels of racism against Muslims are really high at the moment, we experience it on a day to day basis. After the attacks in London Bridge you would go into work and see people looking at you and stop talking suddenly.”

The Tories and right wing newspapers have been quick to offer sympathy to Resham and Jameel and denounce



Attack victim Resham Khan

“extremism” and “hate”.

But it's racism from the top that fuels these sort of attacks. Theresa May whipped up racism against Muslims in the wake of the horrific attacks in Manchester and London Bridge.

Draconian

The Tories have pledged to bring in even more draconian terror laws to clamp down on Muslims and bolster the “Prevent” programme.

Prevent forces public sector workers, such as teachers, to spy for signs of “radicalisation”, targeting Muslims.

Under pressure a new report by Tory MP Dominic Grieve has told the government to review Prevent. His real agenda is give it a liberal spin so it goes unchallenged.

Wassim Ahmed from Muslim Engagement and Development slammed the Tories' warm words about “talking to Muslims”. He said, “If you want to talk and engage with Muslims treat us with dignity and respect.”

“Stop treating Muslims as a scapegoat—and scrap Prevent,” he said.

The vigil showed the potential to build opposition to the racists.

As Weyman Bennett from Stand Up To Racism told the crowd, “When people are angry let's make sure we blame the right people.”

“It's time to blame Theresa May.”

Mosques face threats

AT LEAST three mosques in London received death threats last week.

Forest Gate Mosque, the Coventry Cross mosque and the Ramadan mosque in different parts of east London were all targeted.

These sort of Islamophobic letters and attacks are fuelled from the top. Erkin “Egg” Guney from the Ramadan mosque in

Hackney told Socialist Worker, “We've become targets, we shouldn't have to worry if people are walking down the street.

“These are repercussions for the hate the government has spread.

“They're just trying to divide and conquer us—we need to stand up to it.

“We need unity in the com-munity.”

Marxism 2017—debating how to fight for socialism

by ALISTAIR FARROW

AROUND 2,500 people took part in Marxism Festival 2017 in central London from Thursday to Sunday last week.

It was a chance for socialists to make sense of the seismic political shifts of the past year.

Jeremy Corbyn's stunning general election result, the Grenfell Tower fire, the Tories' crisis, and the danger of Donald Trump and the right all shaped the festival.

But meetings also ranged from climate change to science fiction, philosophy, African politics and mental health.

The arguments about where next for the left after the election took place in a series of packed meetings.

One speaker said, "If we're part of the working class movement and the struggle for socialism we have the right to be involved in the debate about the way forward."

Labour Party members at the conference also took part in the debates. Others had left Labour.

Aiden, a student, told Socialist Worker, "I joined Labour and thought that it was the way forward."

"But I left Labour because the coup against Corbyn showed the limits of the party."

Mark L Thomas from the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) central committee spoke at a meeting on Jeremy Corbyn, the Labour Party and the fight for socialism.

He said the general election had "struck a blow at the whole neo-liberal settlement", but warned that the Labour right were already manoeuvring.

Mood

A series of meetings focused on how to translate the political mood around Corbyn's manifesto into the trade unions.

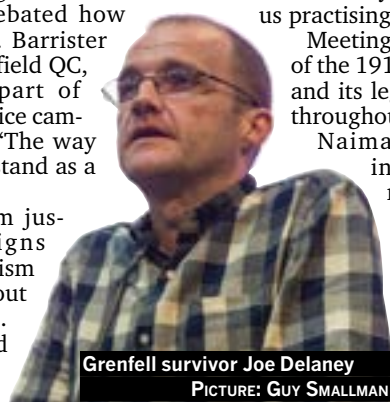
Discussions ranged from building national fights against the public sector pay cap to the struggle for a £10 an hour minimum wage.

The Grenfell Tower fire has dramatically transformed the political terrain. Survivor Joe Delaney spoke at the opening rally.

In meeting after meeting people debated how to get justice. Barrister Michael Mansfield QC, who's been part of numerous justice campaigns, said, "The way forward is to stand as a collective."

People from justice campaigns came to Marxism and talked about their struggles.

Author and one of the Bradford 12



Grenfell survivor Joe Delaney

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN



CHEERING EDSON Da Costa's family at the opening rally of Marxism

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

Tariq Mehmood argued that "you can't do anything without a whole set of principled people organising".

The family of Edson Da Costa, who died after being arrested in east London, spoke at both the opening and closing rallies.

Sheila Coleman from the Hillsborough Justice Campaign also spoke at the festival.

At a meeting on Islamophobia and sexism one student from London said that racist attacks had made her family afraid of attending night-time prayers.

But the student vowed, "They are not going to stop us going about our lives and they are not going to stop us practising our religion."

Meetings about the centenary of the 1917 Russian Revolution and its legacy were prominent throughout the festival.

Naima Omar, a student in the SWP, said the revolutionary socialist tradition showed how to uproot Islamophobia.

"The Russian Revolution involved Muslims and Muslim women," she said.

INTERNATIONALISM

Resisting Donald Trump

PEOPLE AT Marxism debated the crisis facing the global capitalist order.

Alex Callinicos, International Socialism journal editor, said that Donald Trump's presidency means a range of dangerous developments.

But he explained it has also caused further disruption for the world's ruling classes.

Liberal

French president Emmanuel Macron is held up as the saviour of liberal capitalism against the likes of Trump.

Macron wants to push through neoliberal reforms. "But he has to do it on the smoking ruins of the two main parties," argued one contributor.

"I think he's standing on shaky ground."

Christine Buchholz, Die Linke MP from Germany,

arrived from the demonstration against the G20 in Hamburg.

"I'm very proud that despite a week of huge repression we managed to put 80,000 people on the streets," she said.

Greek socialist Maria Styllou argued that the opportunities and challenges revolutionaries have faced in Greece are now generalising across Europe.

Irish TD Richard Boyd-Barrett said, "The socialist transformation of society is back on the agenda. These are very exciting times."

Panos Garganas, editor of Socialist Worker's Greek sister newspaper, described the latest austerity programme squeezing workers and the poor in Greece.

Contributors at his meeting said the Syriza government reinforced the arguments for socialist organisation centred outside parliament.

MY MARXISM

Yasmin, cousin of Edson Da Costa

"SPEAKING AT the opening rally was a really good experience."

"I was nervous at first, but as soon as I got there I felt like I was at home with my family. The support was 1,000 times more than I expected."



Yasmin

PICTURE: DAVE GILCHRIST

"Now I want to find out about other campaigns for justice."

Edson died after being stopped by the police. Turn to page 17 to read about the Da Costa family's fight for justice

Muhammad Ali, university student

"WHAT I liked most was the respectful way people with different views are disagreed with."

"My favourite meeting was the one on fighting Donald Trump."

"Opposing him is one of the most important things to do at the moment."

Sadia, London school student

"THE ATMOSPHERE has been so welcoming—and I like the ideas and the discussions too."

"I've never been before but I heard about it because I'm part



Sadia

of Stand Up To Racism.

"The best meetings I've been to so far were on Islamophobia and the roots of terrorism."

Ian Angus, socialist author and activist

"IT'S REFRESHING to be at a Marxist event that features climate change so prominently."

"It's an opportunity to meet people and talk to them about what they are doing."



IN BRIEF

Egypt to put Israel's man in Gaza?

PALESTINIAN Authority (PA) president Mahmoud Abbas met with Egyptian dictator Abdel Fattah el-Sisi last Sunday.

A PA source said Sisi told them he "supports the legitimate Palestinian leadership."

But there are reports that Egypt wants resistance group Hamas, which runs the Gaza Strip, to let Abbas's rival Mohammed Dahlan play a leading role in its government.

In return Sisi will supposedly lift or alleviate the ten-year siege imposed on Gaza by Israel and backed by Egypt.

Dahlan was behind attempts to overthrow the democratically elected Hamas in 2007. A multimillionaire, he has close links to rulers of the Gulf states and is quietly backed by Israel.

On the way to Istanbul

March defies repression in Turkey

OVER A million people demonstrated in Istanbul last Sunday at the end of a 280-mile march against the government of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Organised by the right wing social democratic CHP party, the "justice" march was small when it left Ankara on 15 June.

But it became a focus for many strands of opposition and grew along its route.

The rally was the biggest show of defiance against Erdogan since the Gezi Park protests four years ago.

Erdogan continues with outrageous detentions.

The latest victims include a group of Amnesty International workers who have been arrested on the absurd suspicion of being members of an "armed terrorist organisation".

It's our world or theirs as protests take on the G20

by TOMÁŠ TENGELY-EVANS in Hamburg

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump declared the G20 world rulers' summit in Hamburg, Germany, last week a "wonderful success".

But outside the summit centre the politicians were surrounded by protesters—and inside they were wracked with divisions.

By pulling the US out of the Paris climate treaty, pursuing a more "go it alone" foreign policy and favouring protectionism over free trade, Trump has antagonised other leaders.

Some, such as German chancellor Angela Merkel, pose as defenders of an enlightened, liberal order against the barbarian Trump.

Yet they praised him when, in Poland before the summit, he spoke in favour of the Nato imperialist alliance's policy of "collective defence".

Merkel and the rest of the G20 are fearful of what a loose cannon Trump is—but they push the same policies of war and climate chaos.

Trump's attempt to ruthlessly assert US power is nothing new, but he is less able to unite the other Western European capitalist states behind US leadership.

As one former Nato commander said there was "no central US leadership role".

Descended

Protesters from across the world descended on Hamburg to rage against inequality, racism, war, climate chaos—and capitalism.

They faced horrifying police violence.

A "Welcome to Hell" march to the G20 conference centre on the eve of the summit on Wednesday of last week was quickly blocked by riot police.

Cops demanded the removal of a section of the march wearing masks, as a pretext for their assault.

They launched a barrage of water cannon and salvoes of pepper spray. But around

8,000 protesters

regrouped and stayed on the streets late into the night.

Some 80,000 people turned the whole area into a sea of homemade banners, placards and red flags on Saturday.

While the G20 leaders represent all that's wrong with the world, the marchers represented the alternative.

Karla, a university student from Hamburg, told Socialist Worker, "We want to show that people in our city disagree with the values of the worldview of those at the G20."

Heavy-handed policing was again used to intimidate and contain the march. But protesters mocked the cops, playing the Imperial March from Star Wars as they passed them.

Numerous issues brought people out onto the streets.

Polo from Chile said, "The G20 leaders' policies have made Latin America poor and full of dictators. They have imposed neoliberalism on us through their imperialist policies."

Welcoming refugees is a central issue for the left in Hamburg, and many were angry at how the European Union has turned the Mediterranean Sea into a mass grave.

Mari said, "I don't believe in borders—the only real border is between the rich and poor."

HEAVY-HANDED POLICING and exuberant protests on the streets of Hamburg last week

Germany's government has a fiasco on its hands

by CHRISTINE BUCHHOLZ, German MP

THE PROTESTS against the G20 summit in Hamburg over the last week showed that there's a huge discontent with the ruling classes all over the world.

They are responsible for wars and austerity and have no proper answer to climate change.

Among the G20 leaders are some of the world's biggest arms traders and dictators.

In Hamburg there was both huge unease with how the G20 was blockading the city and sympathy with the protests.

The police attacked some of the demonstrations and democratic rights were pushed aside. The police have never had such a large presence and been so aggressive.

But this generated criticism in the mainstream media.

The government of the conservative CDU and Labour-type SPD tried to use the summit to pose as an important player. Instead it has



Christine at Marxism Festival

a fiasco, a mess.

Hamburg is governed by a "red-green" government between the SPD and the Green Party. It was the mayor of Hamburg, the SPD's Olaf Scholz, who brought the G20 to Hamburg.

He is mainly responsible for the police attacking it.

What's happened is a problem for chancellor Angela Merkel, but at the moment it's a bigger problem for Scholz and the Green Party.

Longer at bit.ly/2u9FaWF



Summit amiss? Angela Merkel and Donald Trump

Defy this insult to solidarity

SUPPORTERS OF Israel have begun a campaign against Aslef union president Tosh McDonald.

He spoke at a commemoration for the International Brigades that went to fight against fascism in the Spanish Civil War.

McDonald argued that the plight of the Palestinians was a "great cause" for young people today, just as Spain and apartheid were for earlier generations.

In protest, Jewish veteran Martin Sugarman refused to lay his wreath.

He said the comparison was "profoundly antisemitic" and would make Jews unwelcome at the event.

He claimed that a disproportionate number of the volunteers in Spain were from Israel.

But Israel didn't exist until a decade later.

Jews were represented in hugely disproportionate numbers. Most came from Europe, and saw fighting fascism as part of fighting antisemitism.

They were internationalists, often communists and socialists. Zionists instead encouraged Jews to settle in Palestine, in an alternative nationalist "solution" to antisemitism.

Those of us who believe in the fight for freedom and justice for Palestinians need to support McDonald.

And we need to nail the lie that to champion Palestinian freedom is antisemitic.

Miriam Scharf
East London



ILLUSTRATION: TIM SANDERS

Refugees drown as the crisis gets swept under the carpet

FROM THE deafening silence of politicians you'd think the refugee crisis was over. But the Mediterranean Sea continues to be a graveyard for refugees fleeing war, torture, famine and poverty.

The Daily Mirror newspaper reported last week that at least 69 people had drowned off the Spanish coast this year trying to cross from Africa to Europe.

Many of the dead are children.

European holiday makers use flimsy rubber boats for fun. Those without European passports risk everything to use them to try and get to sanctuary and safety.

Instead of welcoming those who have survived the perilous journey, most European countries are

criminalising refugees and increasing border controls.

The camps near the French ports of Calais and Dunkirk have been destroyed.

Yet 21 miles from British soil over 1,000 refugees face constant police harassment. Tents and sleeping bags are confiscated, pepper spray and tear gas are used to intimidate adults and children.

The French authorities, with the backing of the British state, continue to build fences.

Six weeks ago I visited Calais and Dunkirk.

On a small area of wasteland near the old "jungle", volunteers would come each day to distribute food. They brought a generator for

refugees who were surviving in nearby woods to charge their phones, and water so people could wash.

Three weeks ago a large fence was constructed to stop this tiny bit of aid being delivered.

We know there are thousands of ordinary people who help and support refugees across Europe, and millions more who want to.

Whatever happens in British politics over the next few months it is still important we campaign and shout loudly.

This barbaric treatment of people has to stop and borders should be opened.

Sally Kincaid
Leeds

You've got wrong line on much-needed HS2

JOE RUKIN (Letters, 28 June) is wrong—there is no magic money tree for the HS2 rail line.

It's a vital infrastructure project aimed at relieving overstretched north-south rail routes. It will cut internal air travel and provide thousands of jobs for years to come.

Yes it will be used by bosses. But as the experience of other high speed lines has shown, it will also be very popular with ordinary travellers.

There are problems with

the route such as the destruction of social housing. And it is being forced into tunnels by "nimby" campaigners who don't want a rail line to spoil their lovely views.

It's likely the government will make as big a mess of train procurement as they did with the Great Western Electrification project.

But it's still better than the alternative of even more lorries on the roads and planes in the air.

Dave Allen
Rugby

'Tartan Blairites' don't deserve backing

THE RECENT vote by the 34 Scottish National Party (SNP) MPs to back Chuka Umunna's Brexit amendment should be the final wake up call for the left in Scotland.

The SNP cannot be trusted to back Jeremy Corbyn.

During every right wing challenge to his leadership, the SNP has conducted itself as the Scottish branch office of the Blairites.

For the left to support the SNP means asking people to back the party that is the true inheritor



The SNP's Westminster leader
Ian Blackford

of Blairism in Scotland.

The SNP's left wing MPs Mhairi Black and Tommy Sheppard are deservedly admired.

But neither of them has

ever challenged or rebelled against the party line.

Hopefully with class and socialist politics back on the agenda the left inside the SNP will step up.

But the latest actions of the Tartan Blairites means that our support for them must be conditional.

If their conduct continues to undermine Corbyn then all future support in general elections has to go solely to Labour.

Mark Porciani
Glasgow

Just a thought...

What does Owen know?

OWEN SMITH, who ran against Jeremy Corbyn last year, thinks Labour might have won the general election had he been leader.

But voters have spotted that neoliberalism from any party will not benefit them—only the rich.

The same groundswell that made Corbyn leader pushed Labour close to victory. With Smith as leader people would have stayed apathetic, seeing no real choice on offer.

River
Manchester

Time to start fighting back

WHEN EVERY public service worker has suffered from lack of funding in their service and no increase in pay, it's time to stand up and say no!

Sue Ngwala
on Facebook

Never forgive Tories' laughs

THE TORIES laughed and cheered at their success in blocking a pay rise for public sector workers who they praised as heroes only weeks before. This must never be forgotten or forgiven. The Tories have proven once again that they are lower than vermin.

Sasha Simic
East London

May made a damned deal

THE WHOLE Tory party should hang their heads in shame but they won't.

You have to own a soul to do that, and they have sold theirs to the devil or the DUP—I don't know which one is worse.

Tony Dalton
on Facebook

Royal burning injustice

CONSIDER TWO fires—Windsor Castle in 1992 and the recent Grenfell Tower inferno in London.

The evacuation of the former concerned the queen's paintings and antiques. The evacuation of the latter concerned poor people.

Guess which one's evacuation, planning and management was given more tender loving care?

James Hayes-Carter
Cardiff

Low-paid and migrant workers are at the sharp end of cuts and privatisation in the NHS. They face rocketing workloads and bullying bosses. But across north east London 1,000 porters, domestics and cleaners are taking on a multinational to demand higher pay—and showing how to fight

WHEN Serco grabbed a new hospital cleaning contract in April, it didn't reckon it would be facing a series of strikes just three months later.

The multinational giant runs facilities services, such as cleaning, kitchens and security, at Barts Health NHS Trust covering north east London.

But its low-paid, largely migrant workforce began a week-long walk-out across four hospitals last week.

Their fight shines a light on how the Tories are breaking up and privatising our NHS for the profit of a few large multinationals.

Marjorie works as a domestic worker at the Royal London Hospital in Tower Hamlets. "They are making money off us, off our suffering," she told Socialist Worker. "They don't treat us with any respect—we're not people to them."

"We're the ones that clean the shit and they treat us like shit—we deserve to be paid properly."

Geraldine, another domestic worker, agreed. "If you speak up they just say, 'We'll sack you'. How's that showing us any respect?"

"You have no right to say anything to the management, they want us to be scared."

THE UNITE union members are fighting for a pay rise of 30p an hour, but their grievances go much deeper. Since Serco took over from another profiteer, Carillion, things have got worse.

A big part of this is making workers do jobs that were previously done by other health workers who are on a higher pay band.

Marjorie explained, "Jobs such as cleaning the medical equipment used to be done by health care assistants."

"Now when they're finished they just go home, but we're expected to stay and carry on with everything. They've just added more jobs for us."

Ava described what an average day could look like for one of the domestic workers with their increased workload.

"Some wards have 25 patients on them and one person is responsible for all of them," she told Socialist Worker.

"You have to serve every one of the patients the main course, the afters, do the washing and then clean the kitchen."

"You don't have time for a break—and when you go home you're really tired and can't really do anything."

Jacob added, "They say we've got three to four hours to do something



“

They are making money off us, off our suffering. They don't treat us with any respect—we're not people to them
Marjorie

What you can do for the strike

Send messages of support to their facebook page at bit.ly/2tMx1Uy

Join their picket lines outside Mile End Hospital, Royal London Hospital, St Barts Hospital and Whipps Cross Hospitals from 5am



THE HEALTH WORKERS DEFYING A MULTINATIONAL

BY
**TOMÁŠ
TENGEY-EVANS**



“

People wash their hands between doing things so they don't spread germs. But you're pushed to do more jobs so you've less time to do this
Jacob

and during that time we've got a full schedule.

"There are green signs up with lists of what the Trust has to do and what Serco has to do. If you asked any independent cleaning auditor, they'd tell you that the list of our tasks is just too much."

"Some wards have 44 patients on them—22 each side—and you have to clean from the ceiling to the floor."

Strikers explained how there are fewer workers but no fewer tasks to complete.

As Jeremy, another domestic, told Socialist Worker, "One person now has the same workload as four people used to have before."

Domestic

"That's because we have to do the domestic jobs, and jobs nurses used to do. The workload is just too much for us. Everything is for the domestics, every day there is something more—we're the last people that they care about."

"It takes happiness to do a job," he added. "If you're not happy you might come into work, but you're not going to do it the same."

Many workers haven't raised these concerns with management because they are intimidated. Jacob said, "If you don't complete all the tasks that you're supposed to, you have to fill in

a form saying you didn't have enough time."

"But who's going to fill out a form to management saying they didn't have enough time? People are worried about what they'd say—people are worried that they'd get sacked if they did that."

WORKERS have also said this new regime under Serco will have an impact on patients.

As Jeremy said, "They've taken kitchen staff to help the cleaners—we now have to empty the bins, wipe things down and change the towels and soap."

"But this means the staff now go straight from the kitchen to the patients."

For Jacob this has raised worries about "cross contamination".

"People have to wash their hands between doing things so they don't spread germs," he said. "But when you're pushed to do more jobs you've less time to do this—and you could have serious problems with cross contamination."

It's not just the increasing workload that could put patients' health at risk.

Domestics and cleaners on the picket line again and again said that



“

The workload is just too much for us, every day there is something more—we're the last people that they care about
Jeremy

they don't have the right equipment to do their jobs.

Alex, one of cleaners, said, "We never have the right equipment that we need to do the cleaning."

"To clean the floors properly and make them clean for the staff and patients we need the right detergent."

"When we go to the office and tell them we don't have it they tell us we just don't have the supplies."

"They tell us to clean the floors with water."

Bidding

If workers don't do management's bidding, they're met with a whole load of punishments—many of them petty.

David said, "If you were just one minute late they would take half an hour's worth of pay off you."

Whatever made workers' jobs more bearable, Serco have sought to take away.

As Olive, a domestic at St Bartholomew's Hospital, told Socialist Worker, "We used to have five sets of uniforms, but now we only have two."

"It's awful having just two pairs—especially in the hot weather when it sweats through."

Not content with breathing down workers' necks, bosses also want to regulate their free time.

Geraldine said, "If you're sick, have to go to the doctor or have anything on during the day then you cannot go to it. My daughter has got her graduation coming up and they wouldn't allow me to go."

WORKERS were particularly furious that bosses had denied them holidays during the summer. Ava said,

"They always tell us when we can and cannot have time off, but now they have rejected our holidays for July and August."

Anger has been building among the workers. As Jeremy said, "Hundreds of people are feeling the same."

But this issue of free time has brought workers' anger against all these issues to the fore. It is causing a major headache for bosses—and has spurred the latest round of strikes.

When Serco took over the contract in April, they tried to snatch workers' tea breaks away from them.

Aurelia said, "When Serco came in they said they weren't going to change anything, but they changed everything. All of a sudden they took away our breaks."

But no sooner had they done that, workers on the fifth floor of the Royal London Hospital walked out



“

We used to have five sets of uniforms, but now we only have two. It's awful having just two pairs—especially in the hot weather
Olivia

unofficially. That action was successful—and has given workers confidence to take the fight to the bosses.

Peter Kavanagh, Unite's London and South Eastern regional secretary, spoke to a rally outside the Royal London Hospital.

"We've gained 600 new members, 28 new elected shop stewards and the confidence to take on the employer," he said.

THE WORKERS are based across four sites covering north east London and come from all parts of the world from Africa to eastern Europe.

Their union Unite has a high level of organisation, meaning it was able to organise a successful ballot for industrial action.

As Kevin explained, "There's a lot of different shifts, but we've got reps on all floors who let everyone know what was going to happen."

The workers voted by 99 percent for strikes on a 52 percent turnout, showing that it's possible to organise action under the Tories' repressive Trade Union Act (see page 16).

Throughout the ballot some union members were given a list of people to contact about who'd had the ballot paper and who had sent it back.

Bosses have tried to intimidate

workers from going on strike. David said, "One of the supervisors said to one of my colleagues that you'll be sacked if go on strike."

But workers are determined to resist the bosses' attacks.

These workers have also trashed the lie pushed by politicians and some union leaders, including Unite's Len McCluskey, that migrant workers undercut wages.

It is the profiteering bosses, such as Serco, and racism that are responsible for lower wages.

These migrant workers are fighting to push wages up.

Every trade unionist should support their fight. At the rally Colenzo Jarrett-Thorpe, Unite's head of health, said, "If we can destroy the pay cap here, we can destroy it all over the NHS."

"I am determined that we are going to make you an example for all NHS workers that they can win. We are going to tell them all—we are going to win and that pay cap is going to roll off."

The whole trade union movement must throw its weight behind them.

A win will strengthen the fight for higher pay, undercut the racist myths around immigration and boost the struggle against the assault on the NHS.

Some names have been changed

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

WHAT WE STAND FOR

These are the core politics of the Socialist Workers Party.

INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

Under capitalism workers' labour creates all profit. A socialist society can only be constructed when the working class seizes control of the means of production and democratically plans how they are used.

REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be patched up or reformed as the established Labour and trade union leaders say.

It has to be overthrown. Capitalism systematically degrades the natural world. Ending environmental crisis means creating a new society.

THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against the workers.

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based upon councils of workers' delegates and a workers' militia.

At most parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system.

Only the mass action of the workers themselves can destroy the system.

INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is part of a worldwide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose racism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.

We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

In Russia the result was state capitalism, not socialism. In Eastern Europe and China a similar system was later established by Stalinist parties. We support the struggle of workers in these countries against both private and state capitalism.

We are for real social, economic and political equality of women. We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

We defend the right of believers to practise their religion without state interference.

THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party.

Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests. We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.

To join us, turn to page 16 or go to www.swp.org.uk or phone 020 7840 5602 for more information

{ SOCIALIST WORKER } BRANCH MEETINGS

Weekly meetings to discuss political issues and our local interventions. All welcome.

BRADFORD

Gender and sexuality—Marxism and the fight against oppression

Thu 20 Jul, 7pm,
Glyde House,
Little Horton Lane
(opposite the ice rink),
BD5 0BQ

BURNLEY AND PENDLE

The case against borders

Wed 19 Jul, 7.30pm,
Red Triangle Cafe,
160 St James's St,
BB11 1NR

CHESTERFIELD

Deciphering Marx's Capital

Thu 20 Jul, 7.30pm,
Chesterfield Library,
New Beetwell St,
S40 1QN

EDINBURGH

What is Islamism?

Wed 19 Jul, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
7 Victoria St,
EH1 2JL

LONDON: HARINGEY

Capitalism in crisis—has the bubble burst?

Wed 19 Jul, 7.30pm,
St John Vianney Church Hall,
386 West Green Rd
(corner Vincent Rd),
N15 3QH

LONDON: ISLINGTON

What would a socialist education system look like?

Thu 20 Jul, 7pm,
The Old Fire Station,
84 Mayton St,
N7 6QT

LONDON: WALTHAM FOREST

Over the rainbow—Pride, politics and LGBT+ liberation

Wed 19 Jul, 7.30pm,
William Morris
Community Centre,
6-8 Greenleaf Rd,
Walthamstow,
E17 6QQ

OXFORD

Do we need more police?

Wed 19 Jul, 7.30pm,
Restore,
Manzil Way (off Cowley Rd),
OX4 1YH

PORTSMOUTH

Fake news, the mass media and the construction of consent

Wed 19 Jul, 7.30pm,
Somerstown
Community Centre,
River's St,
PO5 4EZ

SCARBOROUGH

What do Marxists say about morals and behaviour?

Wed 19 Jul, 7.30pm,
Tap and Spile,
94 Falsgrave Rd,
YO12 5AZ

SWANSEA

Ideology—where do ideas come from?

Thu 20 Jul, 7.30pm,
Brynmill Community Centre,
St Albans Rd,
SA2 0BP

TELFORD

What would socialism be like?

Thu 20 Jul, 7.30pm,
Carriages,
The Parade,
Wellington,
TF1 1PY

CONTACT THE SWP

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Email

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SOCIALIST WORKER BRANCH MEETINGS



Part of the march called by People's Assembly in London demanding Tory prime minister Theresa May resigns

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

Britain turns left—what next for the movement?

{PUBLIC MEETINGS}

BIRMINGHAM

Wed 19 Jul, 7pm,
Birmingham LGBT Centre,
38/40 Holloway Circus,
B1 1EQ

BRISTOL

Wed 19 Jul, 7.30pm,
YHA, 14 Narrow Quay,
BS1 4QA

LEEDS AND WEST YORKSHIRE

Thu 20 Jul, 7pm,
Swarthmore
Education Centre,
2-7 Woodhouse Square,
LS3 1AD

MANCHESTER

Thu 20 Jul, 7pm,
Friends Meeting House,
6 Mount St, M2 5NS

SHEFFIELD AND SOUTH YORKSHIRE

Thu 20 Jul, 7pm,
Central United
Reform Church,
60 Norfolk St,
S1 2JB

ABERDEEN

Wed 19 Jul, 6pm,
Belmont Cinema Cafe,
49 Belmont St,
AB10 1JS

BRIGHTON

Thu 20 Jul, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
Ship St, BN1 1AF

DUDLEY

Wed 19 Jul, 8pm,
The What Centre,
23 Coventry St,
Stourbridge,
DY8 1EP

DUNDEE

Wed 19 Jul, 7.30pm,
Dundee Voluntary Action,
10 Constitution Rd,
DD1 1LL

ESSEX

Thu 20 Jul, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
Rainsford Rd,
CM1 2QL

EXETER

Thu 20 Jul, 6.30pm,
Exeter Community Centre,
17 St Davids Hill,
EX4 3RG

HUDDERSFIELD

Wed 19 Jul, 6.30pm,
Brian Jackson House,
2 New North Parade (near
both train and bus stations),
HD1 5JP

LANCASTER

Thu 20 Jul, 7pm,
Friends Meeting House,
Meeting House Lane,
LA1 1TX

LEICESTER

Wed 19 Jul, 7pm,
Leicester LGBT Centre,
15 Wellington St,
LE1 6HH

LONDON: BRENT AND HARROW

Thu 20 Jul, 7.30pm,
The Peppercot Centre,
1a Thorpe Close,
Ladbroke Grove (very
close to the station),
W10 5XL

LONDON: Brixton

Wed 19 Jul, 7pm,
Vida Walsh Centre,
2b Saltoun Rd
(near Effra Rd, facing
Windrush Square),
SW2 1EP

LONDON: CENTRAL

Thu 20 Jul, 6.30pm,
Room 130, UCL,
Foster Court Building,
WC1E 6BT

LONDON: EALING

Thu 20 Jul, 7.30pm,
Y Lounge,
YMCA West London,
25 St Mary's Rd,
W5 2RE

LONDON: HACKNEY

Thu 20 Jul, 7.30pm,
The Round Chapel,
2 Powerscroft Rd (corner
Lower Clapton Rd),
E5 0PU

LONDON: LEWISHAM

Thu 20 Jul, 7.30pm,
West Greenwich Community
and Arts Centre,
141 Greenwich High Rd
(near Greenwich main
line and DLR station),
SE10 8JA

LONDON: NEWHAM

Wed 19 Jul, 7pm,
Stratford Advice Arcade,
107-109 The Grove (next
to Morrisons car park),
E15 1HP

MEDWAY

Thu 27 Jul, 7.30pm,
Nucleus Arts Centre
(Conference Room),
272 High St,
ME4 4BP

NEWCASTLE

Thu 20 Jul, 7pm,
Broadacre House,
Market St,
NE1 6HQ

NORWICH

Thu 20 Jul, 7.30pm,
Vauxhall Centre,
Johnson Place,
NR2 2SA

NOTTINGHAM

Wed 19 Jul, 7.30pm,
International
Community Centre,
61b Mansfield Rd,
NG1 3FN



Celebrating 1917

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Saturday 4 November 2017

10.30am-5.30pm.

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Stephen Smith

author of *Russia in Revolution*

Cathy Porter

author of *Alexandra Kollontai: A Biography*

John Molyneux

author of *Lenin for Today*

Dave Sherry

author of *Russia 1917: Workers' Revolution & Festival of the Oppressed*

Alex Callinicos

author of *Deciphering Capital and Imperialism & Global Political Economy*

Book online: <https://www.swp.org.uk/celebrating-1917>

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www.swp.org.uk

AUTUMN DIARY

NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION AT THE TORY PARTY CONFERENCE

Sun 1 Oct, Manchester.
Called by the
People's Assembly
thepeoplesassembly.org.uk

NATIONAL CONFERENCE— CONFRONTING THE RISE IN RACISM

Sat 21 Oct,
10.30am-4.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
Euston Rd, London,
NW1 2BJ.
Organised by
Stand Up To Racism
standuptoracism.org.uk

New film tells the story of the fight against Islamophobia

Freesia uses real examples of racist attacks to paint a picture of Islamophobia in Britain today. The film's director **Conor Ibrahiem** spoke to Yuri Prasad

THE RACIST murder of Mohammed Saleem on 29 April 2013 inspired one of the stories told in the new film **Freesia**.

Three stories interweave to create an indictment of Islamophobia in Britain today.

The film is set in Bradford, the site of many fascist demonstrations targeting Muslims.

Director Conor Ibrahiem explained why he chose the city.

"Bradford has a high Muslim population, as does West Yorkshire as a whole," he told Socialist Worker.

"Hatred towards Muslims is felt in our region as well as other places across the country."

Ibrahiem spoke about the challenges making the film. "It would have been an easier ride if I had chosen a comedy or a daring drama that further targeted Muslims or South Asians as being groomers or terrorists," he said.

"I hope the film can go some way in negating the stigma faced by



Freesia's promotional poster

Muslims," said Ibrahiem.

"They also need to step up and support such projects as films of this nature are still a few and far between.

"The more audiences we can engage with the better. I hope audiences don't react with the anger I have seen on social media when Freesia has been mentioned.

"Many people are in denial that Islamophobia even exists."

Given the complex nature of the material the film deals with, Ibrahiem stressed the need to maintain a balance between art and politics.

"They are two sides of the same coin," he said. "Art is a reflection of the times we live in and politics governs it."

Ibrahiem dedicated the film to "Mohammed Saleem of Birmingham and sincere thanks to Maz Saleem for her support."

Freesia is in selected cinemas in August. Watch the trailer at youtu.be/6-BOCCINZDQ

Middlesbrough



A PHOTO from the Wilderness Way exhibition depicts the hated Thatcher (detail)

PICTURE: PETER REIMANN, THE GAZETTE

Exhibitions that inspire radicalism

THE MIDDLESBROUGH Museum of Modern Art (Mima) is far from having million pound paintings hanging on sterile walls.

The museum is highly political and the exhibitions flow into each other from one room to the next.

Starting with an installation focusing on art stolen from Africa by the church, there are slides of artwork and a documentary interviewing members of the Catholic church.

The walls are lined with information about colonialism, Frantz Fanon and dispossession.

The next room holds Eddie Chambers' *The Destruction of the National Front*. It shows people beating the fascists by protesting. This flows into the main

exhibition, *Wilderness Way*, which started after Margaret Thatcher's visit to Teesside in 1987. It has expanded into a huge interactive description of the 1980s. There are strong connections drawn in the exhibit to the Tories' austerity and racism today.

Racism

There are direct connections drawn between different struggles, from the Falklands war to marches against racism and the Irish hunger strikers in the 1980s. No punches are pulled.

Industrial disputes are shown alongside royal visits to show how the ruling class deploy their celebrities to distract people from the reality of life in class

society. The museum is well rooted in the local community and works as part of Teesside University.

It's clear about the historic role which migration and Tory policies have played in changing the landscape of the North East.

It's not just a history lesson, it's about showing people how we resisted before and what we need to do today in order to succeed.

I would urge anyone to visit and join in the community activities they have planned.

Art is not for the elites but can be used as a tool by ordinary people for real social change.

Antony Hamilton

For a list of exhibitions at MIMA, go to visitmima.com/whats-on

MUSIC

BIG FISH THEORY

Vince Staples

ARTium

Out now

US RAPPER Vince Staples has released his second album, *Big Fish Theory*, to widespread critical acclaim for its themes, tone, and experimentation with new sounds.

Staples has not been one to shy away from his deprived childhood and once being a member of a local gang.

His work reflects the reality of many African Americans and Hispanic men and women in the US, and particularly how people become a product of their surroundings.

The 12 songs that make up the album paint the story of Staples' past life and his present—the narrative of the "American dream" of going from poverty to fame and wealth.

But the American dream is fragmented by

Vince Staples

the constant shock of the reality of racism. One song in particular highlights the contrast of racism and wealth in the states.

Bagbak includes the line, "Pray the police don't come blow me down 'cause of my complexion."

In the same song Staples touches on the prison system being broken, racial war commotion and section eight, a housing act that supports low-income families with rent.

Struggle

However, this song is not only a narrative of his surroundings and reality, but is about struggle and resistance. The last verse is full of disdain for the 1 percent, the government, and Donald Trump.

I would recommend a listen to this album. Alongside his political standpoint Staples is a great lyricist and is accompanied by the likes of Damon Albarn and Kendrick Lamar.

And, if you can't get enough Vince, he will be performing in Britain at the end of August.

Naima Omar

THE political tumult that has swept so many other parts of the world has come to Britain.

The Financial Times' star columnist Janan Ganesh wrote on the day after the general election, "The stability of democracies has become the Western world's box of surprises."

Substantial sections of the population have given politicians, commentators and the mainstream media a profound kick up the arse.

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn did not create the basis for this mood on his own, but he has focused it.

Of course the right wing has not gone away. The Tories still cling to office, Donald Trump is in the White House and racists and fascists seek to gain from the crisis.

But now there's a sense that the left can win—and that socialist ideas are part of mainstream debate.

The Grenfell Tower fire in west London has also crystallised so much of what is wrong with capitalist Britain.

It is about rampant inequality, austerity and an alien political elite who live on a different planet to ordinary people.

Children from the poorest families are 38 times more likely to die in a fire than children of parents in the best paid jobs. Grenfell is also about the racism that further shapes how the poor are treated.

There's been criticism of shadow chancellor John McDonnell for saying that the victims of Grenfell were "murdered by political decisions". McDonnell was completely right.

Frederick Engels wrote The Condition of the Working Class in England in 1845. He said that by creating the disease-ridden hovels in industrial cities such as Manchester the ruling class was guilty of "social murder".

Unnatural

Engels wrote, "When society places hundreds of proletarians in such a position that they inevitably meet a too early and an unnatural death, one which is quite as much a death by violence as that by the sword or bullet; when it knows that these thousands of victims must perish, and yet permits these conditions to remain, its deed is murder just as surely as the deed of the single individual."

Grenfell has intensified the subversive sense that what we face is not just a series of disconnected horrors but a system that inevitably produces extraordinary wealth for some and hardship for most.

A few days after the Grenfell fire a furious demonstration of thousands of people swept through Kensington and another of a similar size passed through central London.

John Sweeney, a BBC



PART OF the People's Assembly march in London earlier this month

PICTURE: NEIL TERRY

NOW THE LEFT CAN WIN MORE

The general election delivered the latest shock to the ruling class. Charlie Kimber says there is a shifting mood in Britain—and asks how we can organise to win real changes



Jeremy Corbyn

Newsnight reporter among the demonstrators, was unnerved by the mood. "Politics has left parliament and gone into the streets", he said.

The significance of the big People's Assembly demonstration this month was the mood of deep anger combined with growing hope. The powerful surge around Corbyn can go much further.

Corbyn's election campaign saw huge mobilisations, such as the election rally of 10,000 in



Corbyn in Downing Street will send the stock market into fury

Gateshead. Will such mobilisations inspire more struggle now to wipe out Theresa May's government? Or will it be largely directed towards preparing for the next election?

The Tories are in trouble, but we won't defeat them just by watching and waiting.

Perhaps Tory backbenchers will decide it's time to send May back to the wheat field.

But removing them from government is a bigger task.

We need more, and bigger,

protests. One obvious target is the Tory party conference in Manchester.

The People's Assembly has called a demonstration there on 1 October.

If Corbyn and the union leaders now call for everyone to go it can be massive.

But the streets cannot be the only site of struggle. The union leaders are now all saying that the public sector pay cap has to go and that austerity must end.

They should be organising strikes to win decent pay and campaigning to make them successful.

The political mood for resistance around Corbyn has to be brought into the workplace.

WE NEED to support every struggle and look to further build the campaigns against NHS and education cuts and for decent housing. We need to increase the pressure on the union leaders to start a generalised pay fight.

These are new political times which means there is a fluidity in the situation.

The union leaders can be forced to shift, at least partially, in a way that can open the door to wider struggle.

It was refreshing to see the leaders of the FBU firefighters' union, for example, say that their latest pay offer is inadequate.

The 2 percent offer does indeed breach the public sector pay cap—but it does not make up for years of pay curbs.

In battling the Tories we also need to struggle against the Labour right and those who hold back resistance to cuts and austerity. Often these are the same people. Activists in and outside Labour can unite around such fights.

We also need to unite over anti-racism. Faced with crisis, the people at the top of society will try to use racism and Islamophobia to divide us.

That's why we must continue to build a big anti-racist movement to take up all these issues. The Stand Up To Racism conference on 21 October is crucial.

And if, as seems possible again, Donald Trump dares to come to Britain, we need a revolt—huge demonstrations, blocking roads, walkouts from universities and workplaces if possible.

But we have to also start thinking about and preparing for a Corbyn-led government.

If Corbyn wins it will be because he broke from what writer and activist Tariq Ali called "the extreme centre", not because he moved towards it.

A Corbyn victory would be a huge boost to everyone on the left and can massively boost the confidence to fight.

But let's look at some more difficult issues. Last month there was a parliamentary vote on the EU single market.

It showed that there remains

a substantial section of right wing Labour MPs who will organise against Corbyn's more far-reaching measures.

They will seek concessions—and Corbyn has already conceded over Trident nuclear missiles and freedom of movement.

Labour's deputy leader Tom Watson now says that to win over "traditional working-class voters" Labour has to focus more on "policing and security".

Corbyn in Downing Street will send the market for bonds (how a government borrows money), the stock market and the currency exchanges into fury.

The governor of the Bank of England—who has complete freedom to set interest rates—might say rates have to double or more to stop outflows of money.

That would mean a large section of mortgage payers would be pushed beyond the limit.

Living standards generally will fall.

Will a Labour government take back the power to set rates? How will it respond to bosses' investment strikes and the downgrading of the currency? Or the ratings agencies' stern judgment that Britain is moving towards junk status?

Either it will have to implement very radical measures—taking over the banks, for example—or it will compromise or it will be crushed.

Mutiny

A "senior serving general" told the Sunday Times newspaper that if Corbyn became prime minister, there would be "the very real prospect" of "a mutiny".

Look at the experience of Syriza in Greece. It was the hope of Europe when it was elected in January 2015.

Now it is implementing austerity more harshly and deeply than its Tory predecessor.

Look at Francois Hollande and the Labour-type Socialist Party in France.

He campaigned for the presidency in 2012 with the rhetoric that "my enemy is finance", and pledged a break from neoliberalism.

Once elected he governed as the pawn of finance and the enemy of workers. The fascist Front National profited from the disillusion he created.

Every previous Labour government in Britain has, eventually, gone down a similar road of compromise and retreat. It's not just about individuals.

It's because power does not ultimately lie in parliament.



Rallying for Jeremy Corbyn in Reading (top) and remembering Grenfell (above)

PICTURES: GUY SMALLMAN



Unaccountable bosses and institutions lie beyond the scope of our present democracy.

They can be blocked and defeated only by a movement of millions in the workplaces and the streets.

We do not have limitless time available. The clock is ticking on ecological catastrophe.

Trump rants and lashes out—with the world's most terrifying nuclear weaponry under his control. Capitalism means poverty, racism and war.

We need the biggest possible campaigns uniting everyone who is enthused by Corbyn.

But we also need to build a revolutionary socialist force independent of Labour.

Based on a talk given at the Marxism Festival 2017. For videos from the event go to bit.ly/2u3SFWG

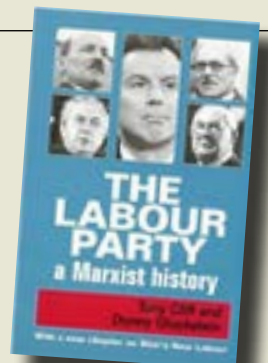
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● **Corbyn justified, May humbled—the left advances**
ISJ article by Alex Callinicos
bit.ly/2SztDz3

● **Corbyn, the new politics and the fight for socialism**
video of a meeting by Charlie Kimber
bit.ly/2sFzza6

● **The Labour Party—a Marxist history**
by Tony Cliff and Donny Gluckstein
bit.ly/20hcWWq

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July days—revolution in crisis and a test for the Bolsheviks

In July 1917 frustration at the Provisional Government led to soldiers' and workers' protests that were violently put down



JULY DAYS protest in Petrograd as troops opened fire

BACK STORY

Starting on 3 July (16 July by modern calendar)

● Over 500,000 call for "All power to the Soviets" on Petrograd demonstrations

● Frustration builds against the Provisional Government and the war

● Over 400 are killed or wounded as authorities crack down on protests

● The offices of Bolshevik paper Pravda are destroyed

● Many union and Soviet workers are arrested

of power to the soviets".

Sukhanov wrote, "Everywhere work was abandoned.

"In the barracks short mass meetings took place, and enormous detachments of armed soldiers made their way towards the centre.

"The city fairly quickly took on the look of the last days of February."

The Bolshevik leadership opposed an attempt at seizing state power, because they thought it would fail. As Trotsky later wrote, "Taking the soviets!"

On 3 July (16 July by modern calendar) the 1st Machine Gun Regiment called for armed protests against the Provisional Government.

The protests, which became known as the July Days, saw more than half a million turn out in Petrograd on 3 and 4 July.

The Izvestia newspaper reported that they were "armed to the teeth and demanding the transfer

power was not yet possible because the provinces lagged considerably behind the capital."

The experience of the July Days bore this out.

Historian Diane Koenker noted that in Moscow the protests generated "a small procession of unarmed Bolsheviks, taunted by larger crowds of local citizens".

Workers

But the Bolsheviks had to be with the workers and soldiers on the streets—and so the leadership appealed for protesters to be peaceful.

The Bolshevik party was full of new, young and relatively inexperienced people. Many were for insurrection.

But ultimately the party had such influence in Petrograd that they were able to win the argument and end the protests.

The July protests fuelled splits in the government.

But the main outcome was a vicious right wing offensive.

War minister Alexander Kerensky ordered the arrest of leading Bolsheviks. Their paper Pravda was raided then banned. Bolsheviks were declared German agents and forced into hiding.

The necessary retreat of July gave a temporary boost to the right. But the alternative—a premature insurrection—would have drowned the revolution in blood.

This is part of a series of weekly articles on the Russian Revolution. Read our coverage at tinyurl.com/sw1917

A premature uprising would have drowned the revolution in blood

How can we fight under new strike laws?

by RAYMIE KIERNAN

OFFSHORE WORKERS in the Unite union are the latest to have their legal right to strike blocked by the Trade Union Act.

Unions with workers in the Offshore Contractors Agreement, of which Unite is the largest, balloted for action over pay. They voted to strike by a majority.

But they did not reach the ballot threshold that dictates that 50 percent of all those eligible to vote take part.

Out of ten Unite union ballots across different firms in the agreement only one cleared the 50 percent turnout threshold.

Yet nine out of ten voted by a majority to strike.

Victimised

London Underground workers in the RMT union last month held a network-wide ballot to defend victimised workers at one station.

They delivered an 80 percent vote for strikes. Yet the vote didn't meet the 50 percent threshold.

Nor did it meet the further



SCOTTISH COLLEGE lecturers had a strategy to win

PICTURE: DUNCAN BROWN

threshold imposed on transport workers among others that 40 percent of all members must vote for a strike for it to be legal.

The offshore workers and London Tube workers join a growing band of trade unionists who've had action curbed by the draconian legislation.

Some 70,000 council workers in Scotland fell foul of the Tory law last month too.

The thresholds are unjust and we need to defy the Act and fight to overturn it.

But it is also important to think how we can organise to win as many ballots as

possible. It is crucial to have a serious campaign in which as many of the members as possible participate.

Many workers will not realise that if they don't vote the strike will be off. So it has to be explained to them clearly and repeatedly.

National action is not

FIGURE IT OUT

Royal Mail ballots for national strikes

2007
Yes: 66,064 (77 percent)
No: 19,199
Turnout of 67 percent

2009
Yes: 61,623 (76 percent)
No: 19,207
Turnout of 66 percent

2013
Yes: 56,339 (78 percent)
No: 15,624
Turnout of 63 percent

impossible. Royal Mail workers have voted three times for national action in the last ten years by margins well in excess of the thresholds (see box, above).

This is because a high level of strikes in the past, many of them unofficial, has created a strong network of reps and an engaged workforce.

The CWU union is preparing for a strike ballot over

pensions. It's good that it is holding a series of canteen and gate meetings at scores of offices across Britain that can boost these networks.

Density

Some union leaders say you can't even think about a national strike without first increasing "density" of membership.

But workers join unions when they fight back.

Further education lecturers in Scotland have held strikes over the last 16 months.

Politicising their dispute, targeting the politicians responsible and having a militant programme of action was a crucial element of the walkouts.

Yet their EIS Fela union leadership had to first inspire workers to vote for action.

Laying out a strategy to win, not just proposing token strikes, was central to achieving huge turnouts and thumping votes for action.

Fusing the politicisation and enthusiasm for Jeremy Corbyn's policies with a strategy of building protests inside and outside workplaces can beat the Tory laws.

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Killer cops need to be stopped, says father

Edson Da Costa's family appeals for support in their fight for justice, reports Sadie Robinson

THE FATHER of a man who died after being stopped by police in east London has spoken to Socialist Worker about the battle for justice.

Edson Da Costa died last month six days after police in Beckton, Newham, stopped a car he was travelling in.

His dad Ginario told Socialist Worker, "We need the police to stop doing what they're doing."

"We need them to stop using force."

Ginario said Edson was a "lovely boy" who was always making jokes. "He was only 25 years old," said Ginario. "He was just starting his life. This needs to stop."

Edson's cousins previously told Socialist Worker about the injuries he suffered following the police stop.

These included scratches on his body, a badly damaged neck and blindness.

The cops' pet watchdog, the IPCC, admitted that police used "force" and CS spray.

The IPCC said it has "some body worn video which covers the medical attention Mr Da Costa received".

However, "The officers who initially detained Mr Da Costa were not wearing body worn video."

Berating

Footage of the police stop filmed by local residents shows residents berating the length of time it took cops to call an ambulance.

And residents on the Woodcocks estate where Edson was stopped told Socialist Worker that cops "choked" him.

Shellin is one of Edson's cousins who met the IPCC last month. "They said there was a lot they couldn't tell us because an investigation is ongoing," she told Socialist Worker.

"They said the officers involved haven't been suspended because there isn't enough evidence."

"But you don't need evidence to suspend them."

"I said that, if it had been a

BACK STORY

Edson Da Costa was hospitalised following a police car stop on 15 June in east London

● Witnesses say armed police "choked" Edson

● His family have spoken out about the injuries he suffered at the hands of the cops

● Police tried to play down his injuries and paint Edson as a drug dealer

● Six days after the car stop Edson was dead. Now his family is demanding justice

teacher, they would have been suspended."

The family are raising money for legal and funeral costs.

But they cannot plan Edson's funeral because the cause of his death hasn't been confirmed and his body hasn't been released.

The family were given a warm welcome at Marxism 2017 last week (see page 7). And a gofundme page set up to support the family has raised nearly £6,000.

Shellin said, "We're so grateful for all the support."

"It's been a very emotional time," added Ginario. "This situation is not normal."

Ginario said that their struggle is also about making sure that other families don't suffer in the same way.

"This is me in this situation today but it will be somebody else tomorrow," he said.

"We want people to support our fight for justice."

Support the campaign—on Twitter follow [#Justice4Edson](#) and [#JusticeForEdson](#)
Make a donation to support the family at [gofundme.com/justiceforedson](#)



More on line

Why did Edson die after the cops stopped him? [bit.ly/2u9FHHM](#)



GINARIO DA Costa (centre) speaking at Marxism 2017 last Sunday

PICTURE: DAVE GILCHRIST

BRISTOL

Police 'failed' refugee Bijan Ebrahimi repeatedly in the run-up to his murder

AN IRANIAN refugee who was murdered by his neighbour in Bristol was "failed over a number of years".

That's the damning finding of a report by the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC), the cop's own pet watchdog.

Lee James beat Bijan Ebrahimi to death on 14 July 2013 and then set fire to his body outside his home. This followed a "pattern of verbal and physical abuse on the part of some of his neighbours".

The Ebrahimi family said, "The IPCC report speaks to the institutional racism that lies at the heart of Bijan's murder and immolation."

Race

"Had the authorities not colluded in the race hate crime that Bijan suffered in his council flat over all those years, he would be alive today."

Bijan's sister Mojgan Khayatian spoke to the Guardian newspaper about the way the police and the council treated her brother.

"We knew their action was pure racism," she said. "And that encouraged us to fight."

Ebrahimi called the police

85 times between 2007 and 2013, not including the weekend of his death, but only eight were recorded as crimes.

He raised the "hate element" as an issue in 31 of those calls, with issues ranging from a threat with a knife to being punched and spat at.

Jan Williams, the IPCC Commissioner, said in the report, "His complaints about abusive neighbours were disbelieved and he was considered to be a liar, a nuisance and an attention-seeker."

"Some of the evidence has the hallmarks of what could be construed as racial bias, conscious or unconscious."

"The constabulary's failure to challenge unfounded rumours that Ebrahimi was a paedophile was to form the backdrop to the fatal events," the IPCC said.

While Bijan was dismissed, this "neighbour's counter allegations were believed at face value".

The report details one incident on 17 June 2012 which highlights the sort of police failings in the run-up to the murder.

Bijan reported that, "His neighbour [blank] from [blank] had threatened him and was

outside his door".

The neighbour "and his girlfriend were also throwing Mr Ebrahimi's flowers around after damaging them".

The police log also notes that the neighbour "had also called him 'foreign'". After a police officer visited they noted the incident as "an argument over plants".

Investigation

The IPCC argued, "This ought to have caused further investigation into the crime and led to the identification of Mr Ebrahimi as a repeat victim of crime."

The call taker also "failed to record details of the threats made to Mr Ebrahimi".

The police made several breaches of their own Hate Crime Policy after taking Ebrahimi's call.

PC Kevin Duffy and PCSO Andrew Passmore were jailed for misconduct in a public office at Bristol Crown Court last December.

Duffy said, "I have been made a scapegoat for organisational failings within Avon and Somerset Constabulary." These sorts of failings are responsible for allowing Ebrahimi's death.

IN BRIEF

Protests planned against evil Atos

DISABLED PEOPLE Against the Cuts (Dpac) were set to start a week of action on this Friday to coincide with the World Para Athletics.

The Athletics is sponsored by the company Atos, which assesses disabled people for the Personal Independence Payments benefit.

These assessments are not designed to help those in need but to save money by cutting benefits.

Dpac plans a week filled with action across Britain, starting with a protest on Friday at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in east London.

The week of action will culminate in a protest on Friday at Queen Elizabeth Atos headquarters at Regents Place in London.

Activists plan to make lots of noise and bring music, food and banners.

Work stoppage for Birmingham bins

REFUSE WORKERS in Birmingham struck on Tuesday in the third of six walkouts against a restructuring that will hit their jobs and pay.

Unite union members walked out for two hours at four depots around the city. Their next strike is set for Wednesday of next week.

The Labour-run council says Tory austerity has left it no choice but to make cuts. Workers are right to resist its austerity.

Sellafield workers are all fired up

FIREFIGHTERS AT Sellafield nuclear power plant in Cumbria plan their first ever walkout later this month.

It is part of the GMB union members' long-running dispute over pay grading.

The workers have said that they are doing roles beyond what they should be doing, such as paramedics' tasks.

They plan a series of 24-hour walkouts after talks broke down with bosses last Thursday. Dates had not been announced as Socialist Worker went to press on Tuesday.

Workers won't be treated like shit

BOSSSES AT Glasgow whisky firm John Dewar & Sons were left "disgusted" by a dirty protest.

Human faeces were found in a control room office after bosses launched a security crackdown to stop workers allegedly stealing alcohol.

The Glasgow Live website reported that bosses were studying workers' log-in details as part of the investigation.

HR boss David Cameron said the company wanted to "get to the bottom of this disgusting act".

LGBT+ LIBERATION



TRADE UNIONISTS joined the London Pride parade

PICTURE: SOCIALIST WORKER

Pride should not be for corporate bosses

by SADIE ROBINSON

HUNDREDS OF thousands of people joined the annual Pride event in central London last Saturday.

There was a party atmosphere on much of the parade as it wove through the streets. But there were many reminders too of the deadly homophobia that many LGBT+ people face.

One man from Oman was disguised to protect his identity. It was his first Pride parade. "My main aim is to send a message," he said. "I have to be disguised so people where I am from don't know who I am. But somebody has to stand up."

At times the parade looked like a giant advert for major firms. Barclays led the march. Other major banks were there with floats, along with

multinationals including Sky, Amazon and Vodafone, charities and campaigning groups.

For many the good thing about Pride was that it included everybody. As Barclays worker Sue said, "I think it's really good when businesses and people get together to do something good. Barclays is a big sponsor of diversity."

Others disagreed. Unite union member Jenny Douglas said, "Firms like Barclays who want to make a quick buck out of the pink pound should be at the back. Barclays says it's for LGBT rights—but it is still investing in countries that kill gay people."

"I think the Fire Brigades Union should be leading Pride this year, especially after the Grenfell Tower fire."

The march was a great show of strength against

homophobia and bigotry. It showed the broad, mainstream backing for LGBT rights—and is a slap in the face for the bigots.

However, there are downsides to welcoming every part of society. Tory minister Justine Greening was one of those at the head of the march. A small group of around ten racists also joined the parade with placards attacking Muslims.

Despite that there was anger at the corporate takeover. And organisers' decision to limit the numbers who could officially attend, telling many to simply watch the parade pass by, was slammed by marchers as well.

As it stands, Pride is a chance for right wing politicians and repressive institutions to pose as defenders of people's rights. They are not our allies in the fight for liberation.

PICTUREHOUSE

Longer action could mean cinema workers won't fail

WORKERS AT five Picturehouse cinemas across London walked out on Friday of last week in the latest strike of their long-running dispute.

They are fighting for the Living Wage of £9.75 in London and £8.45 outside London. Other demands include sick pay and maternity and paternity pay.

Strikers travelled to the Crouch End site in north London to mount a picket.

The tactic is designed to give confidence to workers by having larger pickets at one site rather than at each individual site.

The other reason is that the workers' union has argued they don't have enough organisers to act as picket supervisors at each site.

They are members of the Bectu section of the Prospect union.

But union full timers don't need to act as picket supervisors at each site.

And holding pickets at each site could increase the turnout of workers on strike days.

The union fears falling foul of the Tories' Trade Union Act. It is wrongly treating the recommendation of six pickets on a picket line as a legal requirement.

Local activists are organising solidarity protests at each of the sites.

Bosses have sacked four reps at the Ritzy cinema in Brixton. One rep described



Strikers on the picket line

it as "an attack on the trade union movement and our union organisation".

General secretary of Bectu Gerry Morrissey addressed the picket line.

"As long as it takes, the Bectu sector of Prospect will continue to support our members," he said.

Picturehouse and its parent company Cineworld are under increasing pressure.

Earlier this week MP for East Dulwich Helen Hayes raised the strike at prime minister's questions in parliament.

And shadow chancellor John McDonnell spoke on the picket line last Saturday.

Pressure needs to pile onto Picturehouse from below too. And workers need a strategy to win.

Management promised to negotiate with workers earlier this year.

But recent one-day strikes have been met with silence. Holding longer strikes can increase the pressure.

CLEANERS

Don't let LSE bosses throw Alba Pasmino in the trash

CLEANERS AT the LSE university called off a three day strike set to begin on Wednesday.

The members of the United Voices of the World (UVW) union are fighting to get their colleague reinstated.

Alba Pasmino was dismissed after bosses at the outsourcing firm Noonan changed job roles.

An employment tribunal hearing for an appeal of the decision is set to take place later this month.

Now cleaners are being taken back in house by the LSE by next year after a successful fight.

That means the university management can be pressured to reinstate Alba.

●Send messages of solidarity to info@uvwunion.org.uk

HOUSING

Manchester workers strike

WORKERS FOR the Mears property maintenance company began a four-week strike on Saturday of last week.

The workers are fighting for equal pay—the difference is as much as £3,500 in some cases. They are also fighting against a new contract which would increase flexible working.

●Donate to the strike fund by cheque, payable to UCATT UD.393 Manchester 1st Branch, Sent to Andy Fisher, Unite, 2 Churchill Way, Liverpool, L3 8EF, or online to account 46034412 sort code 60-83-01.
●Send a message of support to Colin Pitt via colinpitt65@hotmail.co.uk

SCHOOLS

Parents plan carnival in reaction to school cuts

PARENTS, SCHOOL workers, children and others will gather in central London this Sunday for a carnival against the cuts.

The action is in response to Tory funding plans that will slash £3 billion from schools by 2020.

The protest will assemble at Whitehall Gardens at 12 noon for a march to a rally at Parliament Square at 1.30pm.

The Fair Funding For All Schools group called the action, which is backed by the NUT, ATL, NAHT and Unison unions.

Parents, teachers, children and MPs

representing 60 schools protested at the Department for Education on Thursday of last week.

They handed in a 30,000-strong petition and held a protest in Trafalgar Square.

The action was called by the Save Our Schools campaign.

Head teacher Jonathan Cooper told protesters that the government's approach to education is "shameful" and "embarrassing".

"We are the fifth largest economy in the world and we are scrabbling around for money to buy books, pencils. We need to take a stand."

Walkouts in London

NUT UNION members at Forest Hill School in Lewisham, south east London, were set to strike on Wednesday of this week.

School management and Lewisham council want the school to suffer a £1.3 million cuts package.

●Send messages of support to secretary@lewisham.nut.org.uk

■TEACHERS AT Dormers Wells High School in Ealing, west London, were set to strike on Thursday of this week.

The NUT union members are fighting plans to turn the school into a privately-run academy.

Send messages of support via ealingnut.org

CABIN CREW

Unite needs to stop BA's strike-breaking operation

by DAVE SEWELL

STRIKING CABIN crew were set to descend on parliament on Wednesday as part of their ongoing fight against poverty pay at British Airways (BA).

The average wage of BA's "mixed fleet" cabin crew is just £16,000 a year. Many rely on flight allowances, which means their income varies from month to month depending on how many times they fly.

The Unite union members have called a 14-day strike to run from Wednesday 19 July to Tuesday 1 August.

Their current 16-day strike is set to continue until Sunday of next week.

Bosses heaped a new insult on workers last week, announcing that the bonuses they denied to strikers will now be paid to those who scabbed.

"There's outrage really," Unite rep Gareth Theobald told Socialist Worker.

"It's another twist of the propaganda machine. The way they've put it is that they've 'made a saving' by not paying us.

Millions

"But they've spent millions to break the strike, and to present it as a saving is an outright lie."

The strikes have caused dozens of cancellations. But their main impact has been costing BA money as it moves other workers or other planes to cover for them.



BA STRIKERS protesting at Qatar Airlines' offices

PICTURE: SOCIALIST WORKER

This includes "wet-leasing" fully crewed planes from other airlines.

One rep told Socialist Worker, "We've had reports of planes going out without enough crew, and even of managers being brought in to cover for them.

"That means those managers aren't doing their jobs on the ground, which creates a backlog. And all the wet-leasing costs BA money."

BA has signed a two-month wet-leasing deal with Qatar Airlines.

Strikers say it costs several times more than it would to meet their demands.

Over 50 strikers and supporters demonstrated outside Qatar Airlines' offices in west London on Wednesday of last week.

To really increase the pressure, workers need to find a way to address this strike-breaking method.

The protest coincided with the start of Unite's legal challenge to the BA-Qatar deal. But even if successful



Jeremy Corbyn backs the strikers

this would leave BA free to find another scab airline.

A more robust challenge would mean trying to spread the action to BA's other fleets.

And bosses' snatching bonuses from strikers is a provocation that cannot be allowed to stand. Workers are right to step up their action.

Another union rep added, "BA management is a ship you can't sink with one hit—the longer we're out the harder it hits them.

"That's why we're out for 16 days now. The great thing is that we're all out en masse."

●Donate to the strike fund at sites.

google.com/view/mfunite/how-to-support

Send messages of support to @MFUnite

on Twitter

TRANSPORT WORKERS

Tube bosses ban water

A SUMMER of delays for passengers across London Underground looks "inevitable" due to a row over water, Tube union Aslef said.

Drivers have been told, "Wait for your break and use the tap," following a change in contractor which supplies water coolers.

Yet senior managers' air conditioned offices will still have water coolers.

"When your working day is spent in a metal box deep underground, cool drinking water is a necessity," Aslef organiser Finn Brennan said.

Temperatures peaked at 31 degrees last August on one line.

Mick Cash, RMT union leader, said, "The mayor should intervene right now."

WOOLWICH FERRY

THE UNITE union has settled a dispute at the Woolwich Ferry in south east London.

Workers there struck twice at the beginning of this year over allegations of sexual harassment of a female worker by a manager.

They were also angry over allegations of management bullying and raised health and safety concerns.

The deal between Unite and bosses at Briggs Marine Ltd will remove a senior manager from the site. It will also give a "fair" settlement for the female worker.

Onay Kasab, a Unite regional official, said the result was down to a "remarkable display of worker solidarity".

The company has also agreed to address workers' health and safety concerns.

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

Children's services strike takes on bullying bosses

WORKERS IN Children's Services social work teams at Kirklees council, west Yorkshire, struck for two days last week. They have multiple grievances with the Labour-run authority.

Despite management attempts to intimidate the Unison union strikers, the walkout was solid.

Striker Gillian told Socialist Worker, "People are leaving due to the stress and ill health caused by workloads but also pay."

Years of cuts meant the crucial service was rated "inadequate" by Ofsted last year.

Gillian said bosses "know this crisis goes back years—we've been telling them since 2012.

"It's a shambles. We've been told, 'Do not expect things to get sorted out for 18 months to two years'."

Workers want more permanent staff, an end to the use of agency workers and appropriate regrading for all staff balloted in this dispute. They also want an end to "hot desking" and chronic IT system problems.

Ministers could outsource the service to a trust.

At Doncaster Children's Services Trust workers recently faced attacks on conditions.

It pulled the plan after a Unison union consultation of nearly 200 workers saw 92 percent reject the planned attacks on an 86 percent turnout.

ROYAL MAIL



Royal Mail workers met in Sheffield last week

PICTURE: CWU/TWITTER

Large rallies over pensions

THERE WERE large gatherings of trade unionists working for Royal Mail last week, as the CWU union prepares to defend postal workers' pensions, pay and conditions.

CWU reps met for big rally-style meetings in Bristol, Belfast, Glasgow, Liverpool and Sheffield. There could be a national strike in the autumn.

Bosses at Royal Mail want to rob thousands of pounds from workers by replacing

their pension scheme with a worse one.

They also want to get rid of the union's area reps, impose worse conditions on new starters and slash wages.

It will take a national strike to see off this massive attack.

CWU members voted unanimously for possible strikes at their conference in April. A strike in the autumn, when mail volume increases, could hit bosses hard.

JOBCENTRES

Anger over jobcentre cuts

by NICK CLARK

BENEFITS campaigners and trade unionists are demanding action to stop the closure of nearly one in ten jobcentres.

Tory minister Damian Hinds announced last week that the government is going ahead with plans to close 74 jobcentres across Britain.

Closures would see hundreds of workers sacked—and mean more misery for benefit claimants.

Back of house offices in the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), which is in charge of jobcentres, are also targeted.

But there is already resistance. Workers at the Sheffield Eastern Avenue jobcentre plan to walk out in a second week-long strike on Monday

of next week against the closure of their office.

The DWP backed down from a plan to close Glasgow's Castlemilk jobcentre after a strong campaign by residents and benefit claimants.

Drew McEwan, who was part of the campaign, said it "has shown that organised resistance works".

More strikes—and solidarity from other workers—can stop the cuts.

Steve West from the PCS DWP group executive committee said, "We're going to have to respond very strongly.

"Certainly there should be a strike ballot where members want to fight. But really the PCS should ballot all members across the DWP."

●Steve West speaks in a personal capacity

School workers reject rotten deal

by RAYMIE KIERNAN

TEACHING assistants (TAs) have rejected the latest pay offer from Labour-run Durham County Council.

The deal would have seen 472 TAs—22 percent of the total—worse off, some by around £4,000 a year.

It was thrown out by the majority of Unison union members. ATL union members also rejected the offer.

Durham TAs are proud that solidarity has won through. Socialist Worker spoke to some of them about the vote and what comes next.

“We’ve shown that we will stand firm and stick by the belief that if one loses we all lose,” said Lisa. Anne agreed and said the vote was a display of “true solidarity”.

Solidarity

Caroline said, “We have built our campaign on solidarity. An offer that is not better for all is not a better offer.”

Megan said the result also reflects “concerns we have about the underlying grading structure”.

The TAs’ rank and file



DURHAM TEACHING assistants have defied their union leadership and the council

PICTURE: DURHAM TEACHING ASSISTANTS VALUE US

committee called on Unison not to ballot on the divisive offer but the union pressed ahead regardless. The committee called a mass meeting and urged rejection of the offer.

It’s not the first time the rank and file has overturned

the local and regional leadership.

Claire said, “This is our one chance to get it right and we’ll keep fighting until it is.”

The result is an embarrassment for Unison general secretary Dave Prentis who told his annual conference

two weeks ago the dispute had “ended”. He has since told the union’s executive that he would speak to TAs about what they wanted to do next if they rejected the deal.

That would be a good start but the regional secretary and others in the regional

hierarchy are out of touch with the majority of members.

Now is the time for TAs to press their demands.

Many feel there has been progress made through talks, but as Gillian put it the next offer must be “suitable to all”. Trish argued that a return to

negotiations “must be more open this time. No more confidentiality clauses keeping people involved in the dark.”

She added that TAs should see the scores used to regrade people “in order to challenge blatant discrepancies”. Lisa agreed, “There needs to be more transparency—talk to us, not about us.”

“TAs must be involved in the negotiations. I also feel members need to meet the union again in an honest and open forum regardless of how uncomfortable it may be for some.”

Collective

Union officials have to start listening to the TAs who have organised the resistance to the council’s pay attacks. It is they who have galvanised the collective strength and, crucially, pushed the council to suspend the threat to sack them all after the four days of strikes last year.

Gillian said, “Durham council must have seen the public support for us during the Miners’ Gala last Saturday. We’re not going away and if forced to strike again we will.”

TRANSPORT

Coordinated rail strikes leave bosses’ arguments for privatisation in tatters

WORKERS ON three rail networks walked out in a coordinated day of strikes on Monday. Meanwhile, bosses’ arguments for the changes that will undermine safety were unravelling.

RMT union members at Southern, Northern and Merseyrail all struck. These were the latest walkouts of their disputes over the extension of driver only operation (DOO).

DOO is a profit-driven plan to scrap safety critical train guards, turn them into glorified ticket inspectors and heap sole responsibility for safety

onto drivers. It also cuts accessible travel for all.

A recently released report from 2015 states that if DOO is extended “there will inevitably be considerable implications for the general confidence of older and disabled people to travel by train and for the provision of assisted travel”.

Available

It recommends, “There should always be on-board staff available to assist passengers at unstaffed stations.” But bosses are cutting staff on trains and in stations, and closing ticket offices.



On Monday’s picket line

Rail fat cats suppressed the report because the conclusions didn’t fit with their plans. But it was leaked by a passenger group currently challenging the Tories in the courts.

Keith, a Disabled People Against the Cuts activist, joined the picket line at Victoria station in London. He said to Socialist Worker, “We need guards on trains not just for disabled people but for all of our safety.”

Officials at the Tory Department for Transport (DfT) have orchestrated the Southern dispute for around 18 months.

The ABC passenger

group last month argued at the High Court that the 14 months the DfT has spent deliberating on Southern’s contractual breaches is an “unreasonable delay”.

The judge agreed. He ordered transport minister Chris Grayling to release by 13 July the DfT’s decision on Southern’s claim that its poor service is out of its control.

Imposing

Bosses have tried to blame workers for constant delays and cancellations.

Govia Thameslink Railway owns Southern. It claims that imposing

an “on-board supervisor” (OBS) role on guards will give “excellent customer service”. This has also been exposed as a lie.

Northern and Merseyrail workers have walked out several times this year—and Monday was the 33rd strike day on Southern.

Guards such as Bob think “it’s time to up the ante” given the Tories’ weakness.

He asked, “Why not go out for a week across the companies? While you’ve



Longer online

For more on the rail strikes, go to bit.ly/2tDjuRa